

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

These Remarks are responsive to the Office Action mailed October 31, 2006 ("Office Action"). Applicants appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter of dependent claims 2-17. Accordingly, dependent claims 2, 4, 5, 9, 11, 14, 15 and 16 have been rewritten in independent format. The remaining objected claims are dependent on one of these newly amended claims. Applicants further appreciate the indication of allowed claims 18-31.

Despite disagreement with the rejection of claim 1, the above amendments have been made to expedite allowance of the allowable subject matter. As no issues remain, it is believed that pending claims 2-31 are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION


In view of the foregoing amendments and arguments, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that prosecution and allowance of the application will be expedited through an interview, whether personal or telephonic, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned with any suggestions leading to the favorable disposition of the application.

It is believed that no fees are due for filing this Response. However, the Director is hereby authorized to treat any current or future reply, requiring a petition for an extension of time for its timely submission as incorporating a petition for extension of time for the appropriate length of time. Applicants also authorize the Director to charge all required fees, fees under 37 C.F.R. §1.17, or all required extension of time fees, to the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 50-0206.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:



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